

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of applying a viscous fluid material to an object, comprising:

moving the object in a predetermined ~~[[transport]]~~ direction;

bringing a nozzle provided with a slot into contact with the moving object;

dispensing the viscous fluid material from ~~[[said]]~~ the slot to apply the viscous fluid material onto the object; and

~~[[ejecting]]~~ discharging a heated compression gas downstream of ~~[[said]]~~ the slot in the predetermined ~~[[transport]]~~ direction to ~~[[press]]~~ force the viscous fluid material ~~applied on the object from the slot~~ against the object by the ~~ejected~~ compression gas.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ claim 1, wherein a surface of the object includes a recess ~~[[is not flat]]~~, and the method further comprises:

~~heated compression gas is ejected onto~~ forcing the viscous fluid material ~~applied on the object to press the viscous fluid material~~ into ~~[[a]]~~ the recess with the heated compression gas ~~[[of the surface]]~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~[[Claim]]~~ 1 or 2, ~~comprising ejecting~~
wherein discharging the heated compression gas further comprises:

discharging a flow of the compression gas having a width larger than a length of
~~[[said]]~~ the slot in a direction substantially perpendicular to the predetermined
~~[[transport]]~~ direction.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims~~ claim 1 ~~[[3]]~~,
~~[[comprising ejecting]]~~ wherein discharging the heated compression gas further
comprises:

discharging the compression gas from an opening ~~[[disposed]]~~ directed away
from the object.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for applying a viscous fluid material to an
object, comprising:

a nozzle ~~[[contactable with]]~~ capable of contacting the object, the object ~~[[being~~
~~moved]]~~ movable in a predetermined ~~[[transport]]~~ direction;

a gun body ~~[[for]]~~ supporting said nozzle, said gun body including a fluid
passage for supplying the viscous fluid material to said nozzle and an air passage for
supplying a compression gas to said nozzle; and

~~material supplying means for supplying the viscous fluid material to said nozzle;~~

~~gas supplying means for supplying a compression gas to said nozzle; and~~

a heater ~~[[disposed in]]~~ coupled with said gun body for heating the compression
gas,

wherein said nozzle is provided with a slot for dispensing the viscous fluid material onto the object and an opening ~~[[disposed]]~~ positioned downstream of said slot in the predetermined ~~[[transport]]~~ direction for ~~[[ejecting]]~~ discharging the heated compression gas against the viscous fluid material on the object ~~heated by said heater~~ to thereby ~~[[press]]~~ forcing the viscous fluid material ~~applied on the object from said slot~~ against the object ~~by the ejected compression gas~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A nozzle for applying a viscous fluid material to an object, the object being moved in a predetermined ~~[[transport]]~~ direction, wherein said nozzle is adapted to be attached to a manifold~~[[,]]~~ which receives a compression gas heated by a heater coupled with ~~[[provided in]]~~ a gun body adapted to carry said nozzle, and wherein said nozzle is provided with a slot for dispensing the viscous fluid material and an opening ~~[[disposed]]~~ positioned downstream of said slot in the predetermined ~~[[transport]]~~ direction for discharging ~~[[ejecting]]~~ the heated compression gas ~~[[from said manifold]]~~.